



## A Program of Empower Peace

### Women2Women – America 2014

Thursday, August 7, 2014 – Saturday, August 16, 2014

## STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

### Conference Information

Women2Women America 2014 (W2W 2014) is a program of the Women2Women International Leadership Program sponsored by Empower Peace. W2W 2014 is an opportunity for young women ages 15-19 to participate in an educational cultural exchange in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. W2W 2014 will provide participants with the opportunity to learn, network and acquire leadership skills that will empower them to make a difference in their respective communities and countries. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with their peers from around the world.

This is the ninth annual Women2Women conference. Nearly 700 young women from over 46 countries have participated in the program.

#### **Women2Women – America 2014: Claim Your Seat at the Table**

The Women2Women – America 2014 conference will focus on how you can “Claim Your Seat at the Table” and empower other young women to do the same. You will have the opportunity to learn about the current status of women and girls around the world, as well as the social and economic progress that is possible when women and girls have the opportunity to participate fully in every aspect of society. You will meet with leading figures tackling these challenges on an international scale, and develop your leadership skills so you can make a difference. Perhaps most importantly, you will be joining a lifelong, global network of young women who support each other and work together to contribute to positive change around the world.

#### *The Challenges*

Despite much progress, women and girls are still the most discriminated-against group in the world. Consider these facts:

- Of the billion people living in absolute poverty around the world (unable to secure basic life necessities), 60% are women and girls.
- Women make up 2/3 of the estimated 876 million adults worldwide who cannot read or write; and girls make up 70% of the world's 130 million youth not attending school.
- Women contribute 2/3 of the world's working hours, yet earn only 10% of the income.
- 14 million girls aged 15-19 give birth in developing countries each year.
- Every minute of every day a pregnant woman dies from mostly preventable causes.
- At least one out of every three women and girls will be severely beaten in her lifetime.
- Women earn 78 cents to every dollar earned by a man.
- Women account for 55% of all college students, but even when women have equal years of education it does not translate into economic opportunities or political power.
- There are six million more women than men in the world.

There is *no* community in the world, unfortunately, untouched by these issues. It's time to come together and make a difference.

#### *The Solutions*

While the statistics above are shocking, so too are the results when women and girls are able to participate fully in society. Women involved in the political, social, and economic life of their countries and communities are better-

positioned to increase attention for women's rights. Simply providing women and girls with an education can lead to healthier families and children, less poverty and stronger national economies. Education also equips women with the knowledge and skills needed to realize their potential and protect themselves from harm. By participating in W2W 2014, you will learn how to claim your seat at the table and become part of the solution.

## Schedule

W2W 2014 will take place from Thursday, August 7, 2014 through Saturday, August 16, 2014. August 7<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> are considered travel days. International participants may begin their travel to Boston as early as August 6<sup>th</sup>.

The conference will include: team-building activities; seminars and workshops with prominent leaders doing important work in government, media, business, science and technology, and non-profit; leadership development exercises and skill-building; outreach events with other youth and community leaders; and cultural activities. Participants are required to partake in every conference activity.

## Transportation/Visas

*If you are coming from within the United States...*

- Empower Peace will provide all participants (other than those from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island) with round-trip transportation from an airport near their home to Boston's Logan International Airport. **All participants will be fully responsible for transportation to and from their local airport.**
- Empower Peace will all greet participants at Logan Airport in Boston and bring them to the conference.
- Transportation for all conference activities will be arranged through Empower Peace.
- Participants from Massachusetts must obtain their own transportation to and from the conference.
- Empower Peace will **NOT** accommodate any requests to extend a participant's stay in Boston. **All participants must depart Boston on their scheduled flight from Logan Airport.**

*If you are coming from outside the United States...*

- If accepted, participants will need to obtain a valid passport (if they do not already have one).
- Empower Peace will provide all participants, including teachers and education officials with round-trip transportation from an airport near their home to Boston's Logan International Airport. **All participants will be fully responsible for transportation to and from the airport in their home country.**
- Empower Peace will provide necessary documentation to help secure a travel visa interview to travel to the US.
- If selected to attend W2W 2014, you must obtain your passport and secure a visa interview as soon as possible.
- Transportation for all conference activities will be arranged through Empower Peace.
- Empower Peace will **NOT** accommodate any requests to extend a participant's stay in Boston or the United States. **All participants must depart Boston on their scheduled flight from Logan Airport.**
- **Participants are responsible for obtaining their own travel and airport transit visas. Some participants will need to obtain an airport transit visa – a visa required to wait for a few hours at the airport's international transit area.**
- Empower Peace will greet all participants at Logan Airport in Boston and bring them to the conference.

## Housing/Meals

- All participants, including teachers and education officials will be housed in **dorms** at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA during the entire conference. Wheelock College is approximately 7 miles (about 11 km) from Logan Airport, near Fenway Park. (Approximately 15 minutes drive)
- Students will have at least one roommate from another delegation. Teachers and education officials will have their own dorm room at Wheelock College, close to their students' rooms. There are communal bathrooms on each dorm floor. You will share your bathroom with one other room.
- Participants are expected to abide by all Empower Peace and Wheelock College dorm rules. Rules will be provided in your check-in materials.
- Participants will be living in an area shared by other Wheelock College students (non-conference participants).
- Students will not have private bathrooms. There are communal bathrooms on each dorm floor. You will share your bathroom with one other room.
- Participants are expected to abide by all Empower Peace and Wheelock College dorm rules. Rules will be provided in check-in materials.
- Empower Peace will provide all meals during the conference.

- **Halal food will be available on a limited basis. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.** Please indicate if you require Halal or kosher food. Please indicate if you have any food allergies (ie. gluten, nuts, etc.) in the application.

## **Financial Responsibilities**

*Costs covered by Empower Peace and the American Consulate General in Jerusalem*

- Air travel to and from the conference
- Ground transportation in the United States and to and from Wheelock College
- Food and Lodging
- All costs connected to speakers, and conference development and implementation
- **Empower Peace/American Consulate will not cover costs associated with the travel and airport visas or passport application process.**

*Costs covered by the participant (her family, and/or sponsoring agency)*

- Costs associated with securing passports
- Costs associated with securing visas – travel and airport transit (approximately \$160 USD)
- Transportation to and from airport in participant's home country/state
- Incidental costs

## **Application Requirements/Process**

Young women, between the ages of 15-19 as of March 7, 2014, in the United States and around the world are welcome to apply for the Women2Women – America 2014 conference.

**The conference will be entirely conducted in English; therefore, participants must have a strong ability to speak, read and understand English.**

In addition, Empower Peace is looking for students with the following abilities/interests:

- learning about other cultures, religions, and countries.
- political science/government, world events, media/journalism, community activism and/or business.
- active in community service activities and/or extracurricular activities.
- willing and able to work with a variety of individuals and teams from many different cultures, backgrounds and religions.
- demonstrate solid leadership qualities and abilities.
- make the most of this opportunity and share their experiences with others in their schools and communities when they return home.

Applicants must provide a general health history with their application.

**Women2Women alumnae are not eligible to apply as participants.**

Applications must be submitted (by e-mail to [marroummv@state.gov](mailto:marroummv@state.gov) for applicants in East Jerusalem and the West Bank or to [GazaExchanges@gmail.com](mailto:GazaExchanges@gmail.com) for applicants in Gaza) by **March 31, 2014**. A W2W 2014 Review Board will be responsible for the full application and selection process. Final acceptance for this conference will be made with consideration to the diversity of geographic, racial, ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds represented in the full group of participants.

**Applications must be submitted e-mail.**

**E-Mail:**

[marroummv@state.gov](mailto:marroummv@state.gov) for applicants in East Jerusalem and the West Bank  
[GazaExchanges@gmail.com](mailto:GazaExchanges@gmail.com) for applicants in Gaza

- **All application forms must be received by March 31, 2014 to be considered.**

- The application contains 4 person personal statements (essays). This application may take over one hour to complete so plan accordingly.
- Those selected will be contacted by email or phone by **May 1, 2014.**
- All information submitted in this application form is confidential and will be used for conference purposes only.
- For more information and new updates about Women2Women – America 2014 please visit our web site at **[www.empowerpeace.org](http://www.empowerpeace.org)**.



Founded in 2003, Empower Peace bridges cultural and communication divide between young people worldwide. With a focus on connecting youth in the United States and Arab and Muslim world, Empower Peace uses the latest in interactive technologies and intensive leadership training to break down misconceptions and build meaningful relationships and skills. Through a global network of students and schools, Empower Peace is providing the next generation with the opportunities and tools needed to advance mutual respect, understanding, and peace.



**APPLICATION**  
SPONSORED BY:  
EMPOWER PEACE

- λ Complete the following application form which may take over one hour to complete.
- λ Please type or print clearly with a pen in ENGLISH.
- λ Applications must be received by **March 31, 2014**.
- λ Confirmation e-mails will be sent to applicants within 72 hours of receipt.
- λ Send applications by E-mail to:  
[marroummv@state.gov](mailto:marroummv@state.gov) for applicants in East Jerusalem and the West Bank  
[GazaExchanges@gmail.com](mailto:GazaExchanges@gmail.com) for applicants in Gaza

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<b>Name as it Appears on <u>Passport or License (if Applicable)</u></b>		<b>Date of Application (DD/MM/YYYY)</b>	
Home/Street Address		Telephone Number (Include Country Code)	
City	Province/State	Postal Code	Country
Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year)		Place of Birth (City, State, Country)	Citizenship

E-mail Address (Please Print Clearly)

Please Check One:

- I am a United States citizen.
- I am not a United States citizen but am currently attending school/college in the United States.
- I am not a United States citizen and am not attending school/college in the United States.

Have you applied to the Women2Women Conference before?  YES  NO

If Yes, please tell us what year you applied.  2006  2007  2008  2009  2010  2011  2012

2013

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**Passport and Visa Information**

In order to attend the W2W 2014 Conference, all international participants must have a valid passport. Your passport expiration date must be at least six months after August 17, 2014.

Do you currently have a passport? Yes  No

If yes, what country is your passport issued from?

What is your passport number?

What is the expiration date on your passport?

If you hold a valid passport, please attach a clear copy of the picture page of your passport to this application. Click Select File to attach your passport photo page.

Please attach your picture page here by clicking Select File

Have you ever obtained a travel visa before? Yes  No

If yes, please list visa country and dates acquired.

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### School Information

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Name of School/College/Organization

School Year or Occupation

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High School and or College Attended (If not currently a student)

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Major Subjects/Academic Interests

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Degree Earned (if applicable)

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Please tell us how you heard about Women2Women – America 2014 (US Embassy, e-mail, flyer, postcard, web site, at a conference, from a teacher, friend, parent, etc.)

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Please tell us about any extracurricular activities and community service programs you participate in. (Please use additional paper if necessary. Additional sheets **MUST** be labeled with your name and attached to this application.)

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**These personal statements help us become acquainted with you. It will demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself. If you require additional space, please use a separate sheet of paper. Additional sheet(s) MUST be labeled with your name and attached to this application. Please try to limit your responses to 500 words for each question.**

1. Tell us about yourself. Share with us something you have accomplished that you are proud of.

- 2 This conference attracts emerging leaders from all over the world, reflecting diverse cultures, religion and opinions. How do you see yourself engaging in this experience?
3. We will be discussing important issues affecting women and girls around the world. What are some ways you can share your experiences with others in your school and community?

One key element of Women2Women – America 2014 will be a discussion on women’s rights. The term “women’s rights” refers to the freedoms inherently possessed by women and girls of all ages, which may be institutionalized, ignored or suppressed by law, custom, and behaviors in a particular society.

4. To that end, what do you consider to be the most pressing women’s issue confronting women in your country? What do you consider to be the most pressing women’s issue today for women everywhere?

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Do you currently hold a valid passport?  YES  NO

If yes, what country is your passport issued by? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your passport number? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the expiration date on your passport? \_\_\_\_\_

**If you hold a valid passport, please attach a clear copy of the picture page of your passport to this application.**

Have you ever obtained a travel visa?  YES  NO

If yes, please list visa country and dates acquired.

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Are you applying as a member of a delegation?  YES  NO

If yes, please list the teacher/education official and the names of the other students who will be traveling with you.

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Teacher/Chaperone

School/Organization Name

Please list the names of the other students in your delegation

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In order to monitor and promote the participation rate of women from various racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds, we request that you provide the following information. (Optional).

Racial/Ethnic Background (Check one)

American Indian or Alaska Native

Hispanic or Latino

Asian

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Black or African American

Arab

White or Caucasian

South Asian

Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Background (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

You will be required to enter a digital signature below which will be binding as your actual signature. Your electronic signature below certifies that to the best of your knowledge the information in your application, including your essays, is your own work, factually true and honestly presented.

**Applicant Signature** - By typing my name and date of birth in the following box I certify the above statements to be true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, and that this information can be used for the purpose of processing my W2W application

### HEALTH HISTORY

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

In Case of Emergency, please notify:

First Name

Last Name

Relationship to Applicant

Address

City

State/Province

Postal Code

Country

Home Phone

Work Phone

Cellular (Mobile) Phone (if applicable)

Do you require any of the following:  Wheelchair  Cane  Metal Walker  Other: Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

I am:  Blind or visually impaired  accompanied by a guide dog  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I am deaf or hearing impaired:  YES  NO

I require a sign language interpreter:  YES  NO  Other – please specify : \_\_\_\_\_

### Dietary Information

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Do you require Halal meat?  YES  NO

Do you require a Kosher diet?  YES  NO

Do you have any food allergies (ie. Gluten, nuts, etc.)  YES  NO If yes, please specify:

Do you have any dietary needs?  YES  NO

If you answered yes to any of the previous 3 questions, please describe:

Do you have any health problems that we need to be aware of?  YES  NO If yes, please describe below:

Do you have, or have you had, any of the following? (Mark YES or NO for each):

	YES	NO
Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anemia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hernia or Rupture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cancer, Cyst, Tumor or Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jaundice or Hepatitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kidney Trouble or Blood in Urine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chronic Cough or Colds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liver Trouble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seizures or Fits/Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chest Pain or Shortness of Breath	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chronic Knee Problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depression or Excessive Worry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Malaria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diabetes (Type 1 or Type 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dizziness/Fainting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nervous Breakdown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth Palpitation / Arrhythmia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Eye Trouble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reaction From Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rheumatism or Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skin Rash or Hives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequent Indigestion or Heartburn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stomach Trouble, Ulcers, IBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gall Bladder Trouble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swelling or Painful Joints	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hay Fever or Allergies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headaches, Migraines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heart Trouble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AIDS/HIV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are You Pregnant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered yes to allergies, please list your allergies below.

If you have answered **YES** to any of the above, please give the nature, dates, periods of disability and results. Please attach additional sheets if necessary.

Please list any medications that you are taking at the present time or will be taking during the conference:

On the final step of your Health Form you will be required to enter a digital signature which will be binding as your actual signature. Your electronic signature below certifies that to the best of your knowledge you are in good health and able to participate in this conference.

**By typing my name and date of birth in the following box** I certify the above statements to be true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, and that this information can be used for the purpose of processing my W2W application

If you are under 18 years of age, you must have a parent/guardian electronically sign your Health History form.

**Electronic Signature of Parent/Guardian** By typing my name and date of birth in the following box I certify the above statements to be true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

**EMPOWER PEACE WOMEN2WOMEN – AMERICA 2014 PARTICIPANT RELEASE FORM**

Dear Women2Women Applicant:

Women2Women – America 2014 (W2W 2014) is a program of the Women2Women International Leadership Program, and is an event sponsored by Empower Peace and numerous other corporate and community entities. This multimedia event is a unique combination of education, leadership training, entertainment, interactive dialogue, and inspiration. If

you need additional information about this event, please contact Tricia Raynard at +1.617.912.3821 or [traynard@empowerpeace.org](mailto:traynard@empowerpeace.org).

In order to attend the conference, this form **MUST** be completed and returned by **March 31, 2014**.

Participant's Name (as it appears on Passport or License): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School/College/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (Include Country Code): \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone (Include Country Code): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

Wheelchair Access       Sign Language Interpretation       Other Services

If you checked "Other Services," please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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If selected, I hereby agree to participate in W2W 2014 from Saturday, August 7, 2014 to Saturday, August 16, 2014, based at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I understand that I will be returning home on Saturday, August 16, 2014. I understand that I am to attend all proceedings that are part of this conference. By signing this, I am granting my permission to be photographed on film or videotape for use in any Women2Women International Leadership Program and/or Empower Peace fund-raising or educational materials.

On the final step you will be required to enter a digital signature which will be binding as your actual signature. Your electronic signature below indicates your agreement with the above statements.

By typing my name and date of birth in the following box I certify the information in the application to be true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, and that this information can be sued for the purpose of processing my W2W 2014 application.

#### Parent/Guardian Consent

To be completed for all participants under the age of 18 before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

I hereby grant permission for the individual named above to participate in Women2Women – America 2014 from August 7 to August 16, 2014 based at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I understand that the individual named above will be returning home on Saturday, August 16, 2014 and is to attend all proceedings that are part of this conference. By signing this, I am granting my permission for the individual named above to be photographed on film or videotape for use in any Women2Women International Leadership Program and/or Empower Peace fund-raising or educational materials.

Date of application completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember to send in all completed application forms March 31, 2014**

To:

[marroumv@state.gov](mailto:marroumv@state.gov) for applicants in East Jerusalem and the West Bank  
[GazaExchanges@gmail.com](mailto:GazaExchanges@gmail.com) for applicants in Gaza

For more information about Empower Peace or W2W 2014, visit our web site at [www.empowerpeace.org](http://www.empowerpeace.org).